Import of vaccine from China

t*293. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have *taken* a decision to import vaccines from China for prevention of encephalitis spreading in some States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when these imported vaccines would reach the affected States;

(d) whether Government have taken any measures for developing such vaccines in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been decided to import Live Attenuated JE vaccine SA-14/14/2 from Chengdu Institute of Biological Products, Chengdu, Peoples' Republic of China.

(c) It is expected that the vaccine will arrive in India during April, 2006, and immediately on their arrival will be dispatched to the affected States.

(d) and (e) Scientists at the National Institute of Immunology (NII), New Delhi, have developed the technology for developing a vero cells based JE vaccine. M/s Panacea Biotech Ltd., New Delhi, to whom the vero cell based JE strain has been transferred by NII, has currently scaled up the candidate vaccine to an appropriate level, and is now on the process of completing pre-clinical toxicology. It is expected that, after completion of clinical trials and depending on the feed back, the vaccine could be introduced in two three years. It is also understood that other entrepreneurs are exploring to develop this capacity to manufacture the vaccine in the country; but no definite time-limit can be predicted.

Modernisation of fishing harbours

*294. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the proposals submitted by the Government of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.